

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

April 26, 2005

In 1994, when I first assumed office as a County Supervisor, I vowed in my swearing-in speech to ask my colleagues "to join with me in tearing down the barriers we have erected between the people of Los Angeles County and their government," and as the first order of business, I said, "Let's televise our meetings."

It was 10 years ago this month that the Board of Supervisors, on my motion, commenced broadcasting its weekly Board meetings so that County residents throughout our region, not just those in attendance, could see and understand the workings of their County government.

I have initiated many actions since then to further open up County government to public scrutiny and wider participation, and we have made enormous strides over the past decade. On my motions, we are making more County documents than ever before available on-line; weekly Board meetings can be watched in real time on the Web, and we offer an on-line archive updated regularly containing full printed and audio-video transcripts. Our closed sessions are audio-taped to help ensure against violations of the

MOTION

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KNABE	_____
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Brown Act, our state open-meeting law.

Two years ago, in an effort to further broaden public participation in County government and better inform the County's 10 million residents on various civic issues and cultural opportunities, the Board of Supervisors on July 15, 2003 adopted my motion instructing our Executive Officer to contact the City of Los Angeles and the County's 87 other cities to convey our County's interest in developing a dedicated County Government Channel in partnership with them, and with all interested cable operators and other media and communications interests, and further directing our Chief Administrative Officer and Department of Consumer Affairs to report back on the feasibility of launching such a project.

The report we subsequently received as a result of my motion, "County Cable Channel Information and Options," set forth a series of recommendations on how to proceed.

I want to commend the Chief Administrative Office, the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Guiding Coalition for their work on the issue, and the Guiding Coalition's Communication Support Group for their insights and participation in the preparation of this report.

After carefully considering their recommendations, I believe the time has come to develop the framework to establish a County Cable Channel and to work cooperatively with our franchise cable providers to find the best possible way to begin cablecasting County-relevant programming over a county channel.

Because of its longstanding involvement with all other aspects of television programming as it relates to the County – in terms of accommodating the commercial

TV news media and overseeing all aspects of the Board's weekly meeting tapings and airings - the County's Public Information Office is the appropriate department to lead the County's effort for the Board in establishing, launching and maintaining a County Channel.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Public Information Office to report back in 90 days with a comprehensive strategic plan to establish a County Cable Channel, which should include information on budget, staffing, contracts, technology issues, programming, geographical areas of potential subscriber coverage, an assessment of relevant resources and capabilities within existing County departments, and a timeline for implementation;
2. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to formally request the City of Santa Monica to activate the regional channel obligation that they have and assign it to the County of Los Angeles, and direct the Public Information Office to seek out similar opportunities and develop strategies to partner as soon as possible with any of the other 87 cities within the County,
3. Direct the Department of Consumer Affairs to provide formal notification to the cable operators of the County's intent to: 1) invoke its franchise rights for a dedicated government access channel in the unincorporated County areas, 2) have cable operators carry out any necessary interconnection of their systems, and 3) gain Countywide

coverage for its channel;

4. Direct County Counsel, Consumer Affairs and any other pertinent County departments to work with the Public Information Office to implement a County Cable Channel, and to transfer to the Public Information Office of all appropriate video materials in order to establish a video library for County Channel programming.

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